

Attorney Docket No.: 22940/2
USSN: 09/650,584
Group Art Unit No.: 3731

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 24-26 and 28-33 are pending in this application. Claims 27 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of this amendment. Claims 1, 24, 26, 31, 32 and 33 are amended herein. No excess claim fee or extension fee is believed due. However, authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account 50-0369 in connection with any fees or extension of time or other fee that may be necessary to permit entry of this response.

Reconsideration allowance of all pending claims are requested in view of the remarks below.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview with the Assignee on September 15, 2005. Applicant's Representative understands that the Examiner agreed during the telephone interview that the claims as presented in the present amendment are patentable. Applicant notes that, following the telephone interview, claim 31 was amended herein to avoid an antecedent basis issue that would have been caused by the addition of the top surface language pertaining to the leg portion in claim 1, from which claim 31 depends.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 24-26, 28-29, 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simon et al. 5,607,437. Applicant traverses this rejection. As noted above, Applicant's Representative understands that the Examiner has agreed that claims 24-26, 28-29, 31-33 are

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patentable. Accordingly, allowance is hereby requested. Claims 27 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 24, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wong 4,521,210. Applicant traverses this rejection. As noted above, Applicant's Representative understands that the Examiner has agreed that claims 24 and 29 are patentable. Accordingly, allowance is hereby requested. Claim 27 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, 11-12 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon et al. 5,607,437. Applicant traverses this rejection. As noted above, Applicant's Representative understands that the Examiner has agreed that claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, 11-12 and 30 are patentable. Accordingly, allowance is hereby requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 24 and 26-27 are rejected as reciting "first end". The Office Action asserts that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of the claims. Applicant asserts that the first distal end in claim 24 provides sufficient antecedent basis. Also, as noted above, Applicant's Representative understands that the Examiner has agreed that claims 24 and 26 are patentable. Accordingly, allowance is hereby requested. Claim 27 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Attorney Docket No.: 22940/2
USSN: 09/650,584
Group Art Unit No.: 3731

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If the Examiner feels that a further telephone conference would expedite allowance/issuance of this case, or resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (617) 856-8382.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWN RUDNICK BERLACK ISRAELS LLP



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David J. Rikkers
Reg. No.: 43,882
Attorney for Applicant
One Financial Center
Boston, MA 02111
Tel: (617) 856-8382
Fax: (617) 856-8201
Customer No. 21710

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